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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM OF TELEPHONE CONVERSATION

SUBJECT: Telcon with President of Russia (U)

PARTICIPANTS: The President
President Putin
Notetakers: Clark Lystra, Jill Sandler,
Andy Green

DATE, TIME: December 19, 2001, 07:38 - 07:46 a.m. EST
AND PLACE: Oval Office

The President: Good morning Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: George, hello. It's very good to hear your voice. (U)

The President: Thank you. I wanted to call to talk about a couple of things, one thing in particular. First, I want to wish you and your family a great holiday and Merry Christmas. (U)

President Putin: Thank you very much. I wish a Merry Christmas to you and your wife and your daughters. Please give my regards to them all. (U)

The President: Thank you. We're going back to the ranch the day after Christmas. It will be the first time I've been there since you visited. (U)

President Putin: It's a good place to rest. (U)

The President: Secondly, thank you, Vladimir, for how you handled our recent discussions, our international discussion, on the ABM treaty. You kept your word. (S)

President Putin: As we had agreed, we followed. I can tell you frankly, I still don't understand the reasons you wanted to do that, but if you feel it is in the interests of the United States, we have to work out a line acceptable to both of us. (S)

The President: That's what I wanted to assure you of. Not every leader keeps his word like you did. In this line of work, you

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Reason: 1.5(d)

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hear one thing when people intend to do another. I appreciate that. I assure you that I intend to keep my word and codify a new agreement. I want our people to work hard with your people to come up with a new agreement on offensive weapons, as well as defensive weapons, if possible. And I think it is very important, Vladimir, that after New Year's, as time goes on, you and I need to discuss this issue as well as others to make sure progress is made. I feel like Colin Powell, Igor Ivanov, Don Rumsfeld, Sergei Ivanov, and Condi Rice, have all got great relations with each other, and I think that it is very important for us to continue to have an honest and open relationship. I think we have the ingredients to reach a new agreement. And finally, one thing I want to confirm is that we will work hard immediately after the New Year to get rid of Jackson-Vanik, and then we can work on other economic projects as well. So Merry Christmas friend, and thank you. (S)

President Putin: George, thank you for this call. I am now having lunch with all the leaders of the regions of Russia and they also wish you a Merry Christmas. (U)

The President: Thank you, sir. (U)

President Putin: I will give them your congratulations, on your behalf. (U)

The President: Please, thank you. (U)

President Putin: And, indeed, we have good personal relations not only between us, but between members of our team and I am very glad to hear that. I think we should start preparations for your visit to Moscow. (S)

The President: Yes. (U)

President Putin: And I believe that if we can reach an agreement, then a visit to Moscow will help with practical issues. (S)

The President: Yes. (U)

President Putin: And once again, I wish you a Happy New Year and Merry Christmas and all the best. We will maintain contact. (U)

The President: Yes sir. Thank you, Vladimir. (U)

President Putin: Thank you so much. Goodbye. (U)

The President: Goodbye. (U)

-- End of Conversation --